

small sailboat found mired in a coral reef in the Bahamas.

Following these assignments at sea, then-Lieutenant Howe served from 1985 to 1988 at the First Coast Guard District Operations Center in Boston, Massachusetts, as a search and rescue coordinator; at night, he earned a master's degree from Harvard University Extension School.

Because of his genuine love of the sea and expertise in Coast Guard operations, he earned command of the newly-commissioned USCGC *Metompkin*, homeported in Charleston, South Carolina. On *Metompkin's* first patrol, the cutter sped 140 miles at top speed across 25-foot waves to rescue three fishermen whose boat had been swamped; later, his crew rescued several fishermen whose vessels were destroyed during the height of Hurricane Hugo.

In 1991, he was assigned as Public Affairs Officer for the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami, Florida, a position he held until 1995, and during which he acted as media spokesman for three mass migrations, two huge oil spills, a plethora of high-profile migrant and drug cases, and the Coast Guard response to Hurricane Andrew. After leaving the Seventh District, then-Lieutenant Commander Howe was assigned as Executive Officer aboard USCGC *Northland*, homeported in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Due to his in-depth understanding and mastery of naval operations, he was then detailed as the Coast Guard Liaison to the Naval Doctrine Command in Norfolk, Virginia, where he conceived and wrote from scratch the Coast Guard's first ever tactical manual for counter drug and migrant interdiction operations. Next, Commander Howe earned command of the 270-foot cutter *Tampa*, homeported in Portsmouth, Virginia, leading his crew to several notable drug seizures and receiving the highest readiness evaluation ever achieved for a like-sized cutter.

Following command, Commander Howe was selected to attend the prestigious U.S. Marine Corps War College in Quantico, Virginia, where he earned a second master's degree and was named one of two Distinguished Graduates. He then served as the Deputy Chief of the Coast Guard Office of Congressional and Governmental Affairs from 2002 until 2003.

After this challenging assignment, Captain Howe was chosen to serve at the highest levels of government, working in the Office of the Vice President as a Special Advisor for homeland security, focusing on border and transportation issues. Finally, Captain Howe was assigned as the Chief of the Coast Guard's Office of Congressional and Governmental Affairs.

Captain Howe has earned numerous military decorations during his 27 years of active duty, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, four Meritorious Service Medals, five Coast Guard Commendation Medals, and 12 unit and team awards. He has also received a number of other honors, including the Harvard University Derek Bok Prize for public service, along with the Thomas Jefferson, Alex Haley, and Commander Jim Simpson Awards for excellence in media and public relations.

This week, Captain Howe will leave his post and retire after 27 years of honorable service to the Coast Guard and the Nation. He will be missed in the United States House of Rep-

resentatives. It has been my pleasure to work with Captain Howe. On behalf of all who have also been fortunate to work with him, we wish Captain Howe, his wife Shira, and his five wonderful children (Margaret, Marc, Mary, James, and Iris) the best in all of their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with Armenians throughout the United States, Armenia, and the world in commemorating the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide, one of the darkest episodes in Europe's recent past. This week, members and friends of the Armenian community gather to remember April 24, 1915, when the arrest and murder of 200 Armenian politicians, academics, and community leaders in Constantinople marked the beginning of an 8-year campaign of extermination against the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire.

Between 1915 and 1923, approximately 1.5 million Armenians were killed and more than 500,000 were exiled to the desert to die of thirst or starvation. The Armenian genocide was the first mass murder of the 20th century, a century that was sadly to be marked by many similar attempts at racial or ethnic extermination, from the Holocaust to the Rwandan genocide and now the ongoing genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

While today is the day in which we solemnly remember the victims of the Armenian genocide, I believe it is also a day in which we can celebrate the extraordinary vitality and strength of the Armenian people, who have fought successfully to preserve their culture and identity for over a thousand years. The Armenian people withstood the horrors of genocide, two world wars, and several decades of Soviet dominance in order to establish modern Armenia. Armenia has defiantly rebuilt itself as a nation and a society—a triumph of human spirit in the face of overwhelming adversity.

It is my firm belief that only by learning from and commemorating the past can we work toward a future free from racial, ethnic, and religious hate. By acknowledging the Armenian genocide and speaking out against the principles by which it was conducted, we can send a clear message: never again.

CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO CUBS ON THEIR 10,000TH FRANCHISE WIN

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chicago Cubs on their 10,000th franchise victory. Last night, the Cubs were away from the friendly confines of Wrigley Field, located in the heart of the Fifth

Congressional District, and beat the Colorado Rockies in Denver to reach this historic milestone.

My hometown Cubbies are one of only two teams in MLB history to win 10,000 games. This year marks the Cubs 138th season, and 100th anniversary of our last World Series Championship, but like all Cubs fans, I have faith that this is our year.

Almost 142 years ago today, the Cubs played their first game in the National League as the Chicago White Stockings, and they finished in first place in that 1876 season. In 1902, the team officially became the Cubs, and northsiders have been rooting for our Cubbies ever since.

The Cubs' home, Wrigley Field, is located at 1060 W. Addison in my district, and is the oldest National League ballpark and second oldest in the majors. Countless memories have been created at Wrigley Field as Chicago families and fans across the country have come to watch the wins and losses of our Cubs.

Chicagoans are very excited about our Cubs this year, with the team playing great baseball and sitting in first place in the Central with a record of 15–6. Manager Lou Pinella has done a terrific job with an outstanding complement of players, from pitchers Carlos Zambrano, Ted Lilly, and Carlos Marmol to Derrek Lee, Aramis Ramirez, newcomer Kosuke Fukudome, and last night's hero, Ryan Theriot.

Great players have filled Cubs lore over the years, and we will never forget legends like Ernie Banks, Gabby Hartnett, Ron Santo, Billy Williams, Mordecai "Three Finger" Brown, Ryne Sandberg, Mark Grace, and others.

Last night's victory was hard fought, with the Cubs defeating the Rockies in 10 innings to earn that 10,000th victory. Madam Speaker, as the Representative of Wrigley Field and all the residents of the 5th Congressional District of Illinois, as well as hundreds of thousands of Chicago Cubs fans, I congratulate the Cubs on this wonderful milestone. I'm looking forward to many more victories and hope to see that "W" flag flying at Wrigley Field throughout the summer and fall.

A TRIBUTE TO JUNIUS NORFLEET, A PIONEERING ARTIST, MUSICIAN AND AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, on this day it is my esteemed honor to enter into the RECORD a heartfelt tribute to a great artist, musician and a Chicagoan for most of his life, the late Junious Norfleet. America may not know Junious Norfleet's name but they surely know his music. Junious, also known as "Bud," was the youngest brother of the famed Norfleet Brothers whose artistry—a skillful mix of R&B, jazz and gospel—grew in popularity in the 1950s. Junious provided the jazzy, sultry but powerful voice of a tenor whose tone, skillful delivery and showmanship propelled him to the lead of this pioneering musical group. Junious' life on Earth ended on March 25, 2008, following complications from a stroke. He leaves behind his wife, Janet Norfleet, Chicago's first female postmaster, and thousands

of adoring family members, friends and fans, like me, throughout our Nation.

As a fan and admirer of Junious Norfleet, when I think of his life as an African American in these United States, I think that, in many ways, it mirrors the challenges, growth and triumphs of our nation. Junious was born in the town of Marion, Alabama on March 20, 1926 to the union of Jake and Indiana Norfleet. He was the youngest of 15 children, a "PK," or preacher's kid, who grew up in a loving, but disciplined home in the segregated South. Junious came of age enjoying his childhood. He learned the value of hard work while living in a large, rural environment where he was responsible for the care and upkeep of his own portion of land. There, his parents grew sweet potatoes, cotton and other produce and he recounted many days of happiness from enjoying something as simple and refreshing as watermelon on a hot summer day. He did share with his friends, though, that no children of his would ever have to perform such rigorous, manual labor. And he, indeed, delivered on that promise for his family.

With a father as a minister and the youngest of 15 children (ten boys and five girls), the church was always a big part of Junious' life. He grew up singing with his older brothers on the family farm in Marion, Alabama. They would perform at any time, anywhere, so long as people were around to listen. Junious was handsome and charismatic, the perfect lead for any music group. He possessed a booming voice that made others stop and take notice. As word of the Norfleet Brothers' talent began to spread, they gained their first taste of commercial success by hosting a 15-minute radio program which broadcast every Saturday afternoon from Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. It was in Tuscaloosa where The Norfleet Brothers recorded their first record.

As their singing abilities began to be recognized, in 1948, after some of his older brothers completed tours of duty in WWII, The Norfleet Brothers began to travel. They sang in churches and town halls in Tennessee, Cincinnati, Ohio and Chicago while driving across the country in their cherished, fiery red Chevy. Junious along with his brothers, Peter Young, Arthur and Joseph, his nephew, Wilson, cousin Nathaniel and their friend, George, made quite a name for themselves while building an adoring fan base. Their notoriety had a bit of a downside as, after performing in Chicago, they found that their red Chevy had been stolen. But their loss was Chicago's gain as they decided to make Chicago their home.

Never afraid of hard work, Junious and his brothers worked a variety of jobs while continuing to sing. A patriotic American, like his brothers before him, Junious served, state-side, in the Army from 1953 to 1956. During this time he continued to balance love of country, love of family and a passionate desire to build a career in music and entertainment. Like other talented African American artists at that time, Junious and his brothers had to struggle with unscrupulous record labels and managers during an era when Jim Crow segregation remained the law of the land. Still, the Norfleet Brothers continued their rise to prominence in the 1950s with a traditional, four-part harmony gospel sound that was backed with guitar. The group maintained this structure even as gospel moved toward heavier instrumentation and more of a "shout out" style of singing, according to author Bob Marovich

who is writing a history of gospel in Chicago. Songs on which Junious was featured as lead tenor included "Through it All" and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." According to his wife, "Wade in the Water" was his favorite. During this time the group cut an album, "Shadrach," and were widely known for the song "None but the Righteous."

According to published reports, the cast of the group was fluid and they began touring in the late 1940s. Over time, The Norfleet Brothers were joined by other family members and an occasional outsider and, later, the sons of the original members also sang with the group. In 1957, they won the first place prize on the Morris B. Sikes Amateur Hour, a local television program. They appeared on several television programs and were hired to sing television commercials for a local auto dealer.

In 1963, The Norfleet Brothers became the host of the Emmy award-winning "Jubilee Showcase," Chicago's longest running television program (1963–1984). The Norfleet Brothers performed as the headlining act for 21 years! The group continued to perform at various churches and events. They held their annual gospel concerts at Hartzell Memorial United Methodist Church during the 1980s and early 1990s. In 1988, The Norfleet Brothers celebrated their 50th Anniversary in the music business with a concert at Olivet Baptist Church in Chicago.

Junious is survived by his loving wife, Janet, and by several children, grandchildren, a host of nieces and nephews, grand nieces, grand nephews and a legion of fans, young and old, who will miss his charming smile and his wonderful voice. In addition to this reflection, Junious Norfleet's legacy will live on as, in recent years, his grand nephew, Ronald Norfleet, his grand niece, Toni Reed, took the time to gather oral history from Junious that preserves the rich musical and family legacy he leaves behind. Reed, a Chicago-based documentary film producer, is working on a documentary feature film about her uncle's remarkable life.

My prayers and best wishes are forever extended to this large and loving family. I wish Ms. Reed and her family all the best in sharing the artistry, courage and musical gifts of Junious "Bud" Norfleet with family, friends and fans throughout the world.

SAN JACINTO DAY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate one of the most important events in Texas history. Monday, April 21, Texans celebrated San Jacinto Day. In the past I have missed this event because I had to be in Washington for votes, but this year I was able to be at home in Texas, and actually be at the battleground where Sam Houston and Santa Anna fought over one hundred and seventy years ago.

On that day in 1836, approximately 900 Texan and Tejano volunteers overpowered a larger, professional Mexican army of conscript soldiers, after defeats at Goliad and the Alamo. These outnumbered volunteers succeeded because they were fighting against tyr-

anny and they were fighting for their homeland. In the words of the Texas Declaration of Independence, the people's government had been "forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism."

The Texas Revolution proved the bonds of freedom are stronger than ethnicity, as many Tejanos sacrificed their lives for Texas' freedom at the battles of Gonzalez, Bexar, Goliad, the Alamo, and San Jacinto. The war was not between Anglos and Hispanics, it was a struggle between all Texans and the military dictatorship in Mexico City. Texans and Tejanos knew then what we know now—freedom requires sacrifice. Our young people going to or coming back from fighting in Afghanistan or Iraq are very aware of this hard fact of life.

Texas culture places high honors on heroes willing to sacrifice their lives for a better life for their fellow man, and Texans are known around the world as an honorable people who respond to the call of duty. While our young people are answering today's calls of duty, we should not forget those who have bravely answered the call in the past.

In that spirit, I want to highlight the work by the San Jacinto Chapter of the Daughters of the Texas Republic, who made the preservation of the San Jacinto Battleground possible by petitioning the Legislature to purchase the acreage and by donating their treasury to complete the sale in 1900. The San Jacinto Chapter of Daughters and the Texans Veterans Association did tremendous work to ensure that the legacy lived on, and the importance of the park has only expanded since then.

The park not only has the San Jacinto Monument to recognize the brave men that defeated the military dictator General Santa Anna, it is also home to the Battleship Texas, which is a symbol of Texans' sacrifices in World War I and World War II. Thankfully, through federal appropriations and state and local funding, the restoration and preservation of Battleship Texas is moving forward as part of a multi-year effort to collect the necessary funding for the restoration of this great historical site. The funding will help with the Battleship Texas Foundation's plans to restore the Battleship Texas and convert it into a museum. This is an important project not only to honor those in our past, but to educate future Texans who may have to answer future calls to service about our tradition of defending freedom.

As part of our historical preservation efforts, we are also working on the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area, which will stretch from Buffalo Bayou in East End Houston to San Jacinto Battleground, including the Ship Channel and the Baytown Nature Center. The Heritage Area will help the history of the establishment of the Texas republic. The restoration of the Battleship Texas and the establishment of a Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area will go a long way to ensure that new generations of Texans know their tradition of bravery.

With an understanding of where they came from, future Texans will continue to respond to calls to service, and Texans will continue to be respected and admired around the world.